

The Tabernacle in the Wilderness

by

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CHAPTER EIGHT

The Veil of the Tabernacle

AGAIN TAKE YOUR BIBLES AND TURN TO EXODUS 26:31:

"And thou shalt make a veil of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine-twined linen of cunning work . . . "

There were three beautifully colored curtains in the Tabernacle in the Wilderness.

The first one was at the gate of the entrance just before the Brazen Altar, the second was at the door of the Holy Place, and the third was the veil before the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies.

Three curtains - one at the gate, one at the door, and one leading into the Holy of Holies.

A VEIL SEPARATES

Now, the meaning of the word "**veil**" is "*to separate*."

Communion with the very presence of GOD was to be found only in the Holy of Holies, for GOD told Moses in Exodus 25:22 that He would meet and commune with him from above the blood-sprinkled Mercy Seat. [72]

But notice how separated the Holy of Holies was from the surrounding encampment of the children of Israel.

Three curtains had to be passed, each of which added to the sense of the great gulf which existed between GOD and man.

Likewise, to enter the Holy of Holies, one had to pass the Brazen Altar, wash at the Laver, walk

in the light of the Golden Candlestick, and come before the Altar of Incense before he was fit to come into the Holy of Holies and commune with Almighty GOD.

But remember this: while Aaron and his sons went twice each day to the Brazen Altar, the Laver, and then into the Holy Place to trim the lamps and place incense upon the Golden Altar, only once a year, on the Day of Atonement, did Aaron himself go beyond the veil of the Tabernacle and enter into the Holy of Holies.

Read Hebrews 9:7, 8: **"But into the second [i.e., the Holy of Holies] went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the errors of the people . . ."** - the HOLY SPIRIT thus signifying that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest until the Veil of the Temple was rent when CHRIST died on Calvary. The Veil of the Tabernacle, then, emphasized the separation, the great gulf that existed between GOD and men until the Cross of Calvary.

Other usages of the word "**veil**" in the Bible carry with them this same sense of separation. [73]

Take, for example, the veil which Moses had to wear when he came down from Mount Sinai. When GOD had spoken to Moses on Mount Sinai, the glorious manifestation of the Godhead, the Shekinah Glory, had so vividly stamped itself upon the face of Moses that he had to wear a veil to conceal that glory from the eyes of mortal men.

None could stand the presence of that reflected glory, for we read in Exodus 34:33: **"And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face. But when Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out . . . And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face, until he went in to speak with him."**

Between the holy, righteous GOD and sinful men there is this great separation which is signified by Moses' veil, the Veil of the Tabernacle, and later by the Veil in the Temple.

But the Bible tells us of still another veil which signifies this separation.

We read in John 1:14 that the Word was made flesh and tabernacled amongst men. CHRIST's body or flesh was thus a veil which hid His Deity from the eyes of men. Looking upon CHRIST, men did not see that He was very GOD of very GOD. They asked, **"Is not this the carpenter's son?"** (Mark 6:3)

Isaiah, in prophetic vision, foresaw that He would be one of very uncomely visage (Isaiah 52:14). [74]

CALVARY ABOLISHED THE SEPARATION

Nevertheless, as we trace the story of our Lord's earthly sojourn and public ministry, we see glimpses of His glory.

By divine revelation, His disciples were able to see beyond the veil of His flesh and behold the

fact that He was the Son of GOD.

John 1:14 declares that the disciples beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Glimpses of His glory were manifested to the disciples at the wedding in Cana of Galilee (John 2:1-11). There He changed the water into wine, and John records, "**This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.**"

Other miracles in John's Gospel were moments when glimpses of CHRIST's glory shone forth through the veil of His flesh.

Then turn to Matthew 17:2, where we read concerning the incident on the Mount of Transfiguration that JESUS " . . . **was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.**" Peter, recalling this incident in later life, said, "**We . . . were eyewitnesses of his majesty**" (II Peter 1:16).

But these glimpses of glory climaxed at the moment when CHRIST died. [75]

Turn in your Bibles to Mark 15:37, 38, and read what happened the moment CHRIST died on the Cross of Calvary: "**And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.**"

Human might could not have been responsible for tearing this veil, for it was thirty feet wide, thirty feet high, and a handbreadth thick!

It was rent by the power of Almighty GOD! GOD rent this veil at the very moment when CHRIST died for the sins of the world on Calvary's Cross.

Hence, the gap which once separated the holy, righteous GOD from sinful, depraved men is now bridged by the finished work of CHRIST on the Cross.

Now those who have entrusted themselves to CHRIST may have continuous access to the Holy of Holies, and have constant communion and fellowship with GOD.

Hence, we read in Hebrews 10:19, 20 that we may have boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of JESUS, by a new and living way which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.

Thus the glory which emanated from CHRIST from time to time during His earthly ministry can now be seen continuously after His death and resurrection by all who have repented of their sins and put their faith in CHRIST.

Instead of the one day a year when one man could go into the Holy of Holies, all who have believed in CHRIST can have constant access to God through CHRIST Who has entered the Holy of Holies for us and rent the veil which separates by His death on the Cross.

Are you discouraged? [76]

Are you weary?

Are difficulties coming your way so fast and pressures coming so heavy that you know not which way to turn?

Are you at wit's end come?

Well, remember, if you have received CHRIST as Saviour you can come in prayer boldly, through the rent veil, into the Holy of Holies, pouring out all your problems, sorrow, and heartaches, knowing that His ear is ever open to your cry. He will answer you; He will comfort you; He will undertake in your situation.

Satan tries to keep you from GOD, tries to make you feel condemned and unworthy. He tries to keep you from the secret place, but GOD says, "Come! Come! Come! Make your petitions known unto me."

The Word says, **"In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God, and the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus"** (Philippians 4:6, 7).

And we need that assurance, brother, in these days when the enemy is coming in like a flood. We need it.

Let's bow our heads in prayer, no one stirring.

Then, though I do not know where my voice is going in the great radio audience, I feel that it is going into homes that have been darkened by Satan, the god of this age. [77]

I feel that people have heard this message and are kneeling right now, possibly beside a chair in the kitchen, or in the bedroom, and they are coming to GOD through JESUS CHRIST and are saying, "The veil is rent and Heavenly Father, I want to commune with Thee, upon Thy throne."

JESUS says, **"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest"** (Matthew 11:28).

So come now while the door is open and know the full salvation that is in CHRIST. [78]

~ end of chapter 8 ~

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